



Mohonasen Central School District

2009-2010 Proposed Budget

“Whatever it takes... Whatever the challenge”



Mohonasen has PLANS for its students!!



Our mission is to ensure that students reach their
Potential to **L**earn in an **A**cademically rich,
Nurturing and **S**afe environment.

Vision for the future...

Mohonasen Central School district will be widely recognized
as an exemplary school district, enthusiastically educating
mind, body and character.

Visitors and community members will experience
an environment of respect and care surrounding
each personal interaction. They will discover a culture of excellence
permeating every program.

Mohonasen will be a model of a safe, effective and
well-rounded educational community in a
diverse suburban setting.



Budgetary Goals

The Board of Education establishes yearly budgetary goals.

- Minimal budget increase and commensurate tax rate that supports the “Whatever it Takes, Whatever the Challenge” philosophy.
- Continue to work at the state level for state aid formula reform.
- Maintain programs while continuing to move district forward, even during challenging economic times.
- Ensure fairness and equity between programs.
- Maximize existing resources and seek out new revenues.
- Continue to implement 3-5 year financial plan, rebuilding reserves and fund balance.
- Reflect staffing allocations that facilitate implementation of standards, enrollment changes and class size needs, collective bargaining agreements, as well as emerging programmatic and facility needs.
- Allocate resources and staffing to implement priority goals necessary to improve results.



The Process



- Administrators/Supervisors met in October to identify programmatic goals and areas of focus, K-12. These goals were prioritized and program/department level budgets were developed.
- Focus groups were held to generate input on the district's long-range program and facilities plan.
- The roll-over budget was balanced with the state budget in December when Governor David Paterson released his executive budget proposal.
- An online survey, open to all residents, was conducted to gather feedback on community goals and priorities for the budget development process.
- A series of seven public budget meetings were held between January and April to present different parts of the budget and gather community feedback/questions.
- Budget information has been posted online throughout the development process at www.mohonasen.org/budget.
- As the public budget meetings were held, the budget was refined according to feedback/questions, if appropriate.



A School District's Financial Health



“The most important reason for managing a school district’s financial condition is to sustain the education of students on a long-term basis. The socioeconomic environment and how management adapts to the climate are major factors that influence the fiscal health of the district. District wealth is a key determinant of its capacity to generate revenues. The district leadership alone has minimal influence to improve the wealth of a district. However, it can control how it adapts to the economic environment. Recognizing potential financial stress, making hard choices with programs and services, developing realistic budgets and making timely decisions when faced with stress are all within the capability of the district.”



Source: Fiscal Fitness, a Guide to Monitoring Your School District’s Budget, February 2004

How is Mohonasen Pro-Active?



- Cost-benefit analysis and evaluation of existing educational programs.
- Justification for new programs during budget development process.
- Re-deployment of staffing resources to facilitate efficiency and effectiveness.
- Cost containment measures in the area of health care.
- Energy initiatives in place since August 2005.
- EXCEL Project to address infrastructure issues including energy efficiency.
- Maximization of state aid.
- Elimination of inefficiencies, e.g. bus runs.
- Careful administration/monitoring of budgetary expenditures.
- Freeze on non-essential spending and hiring.
- Incorporation of job responsibilities from vacant administrative positions into existing positions.
- Work with other districts to share resources/services.
 - BOCES – Shared services, Electric consortium
 - Cooperative purchasing (pool chemicals, waste removal, paper, bus parts, toner)
 - Bus runs
 - Workers Compensation



Per Pupil Expenditures 2006-07



Statewide Average	\$17,330
Suburban Council Average without Mohonasen	\$14,543
Schenectady County Average without Mohonasen	\$14,001
Mohonasen	\$11,523

Mohonasen's per pupil expenditure of \$11,523 for 2006-07 is the lowest in the county, the lowest in the Suburban Council and the fifth lowest in the state.



Proposed Budget



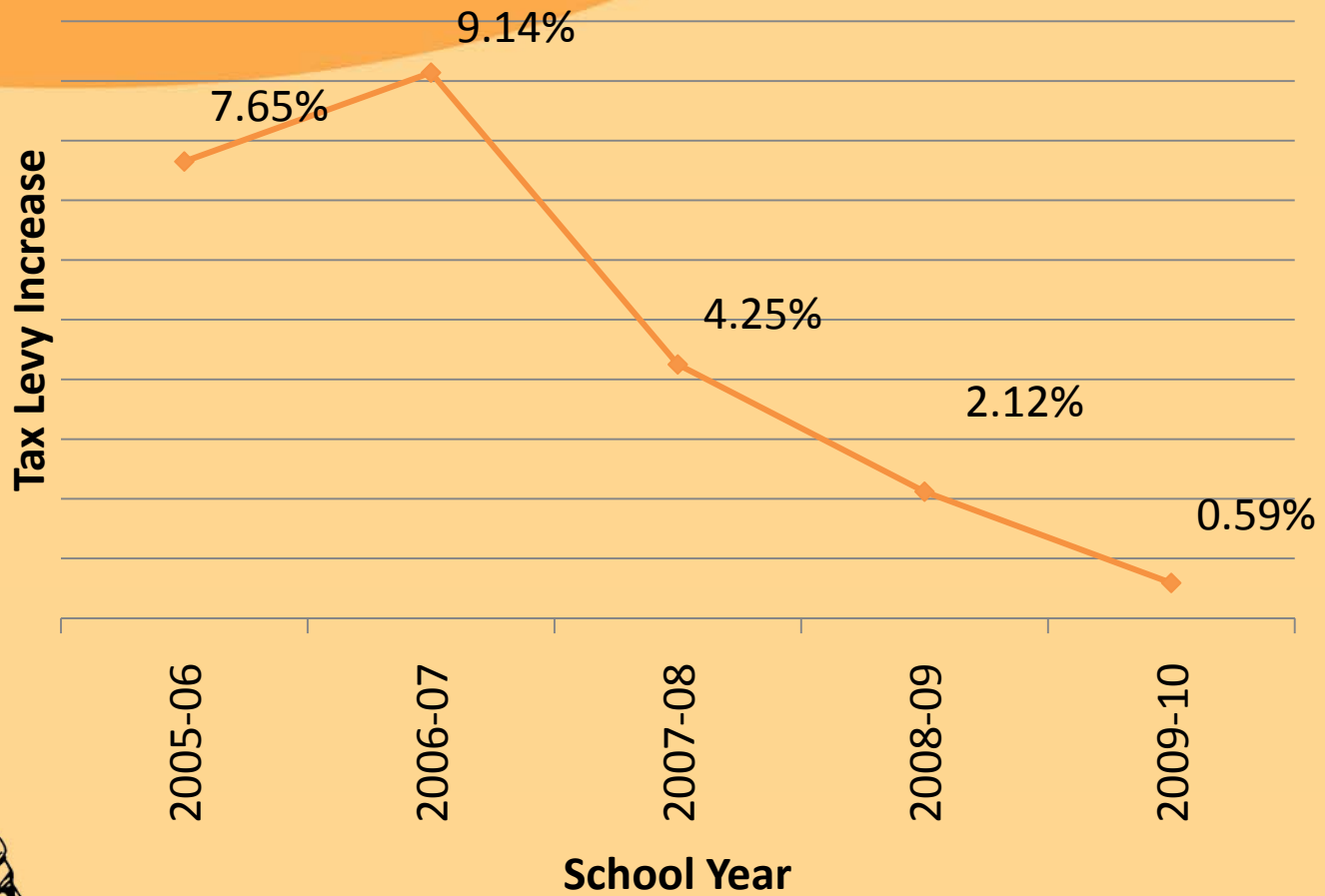
Total Proposal: \$42,383,693

**Budget-to-budget increase over
2008-2009: \$448,079 or 1.068%**

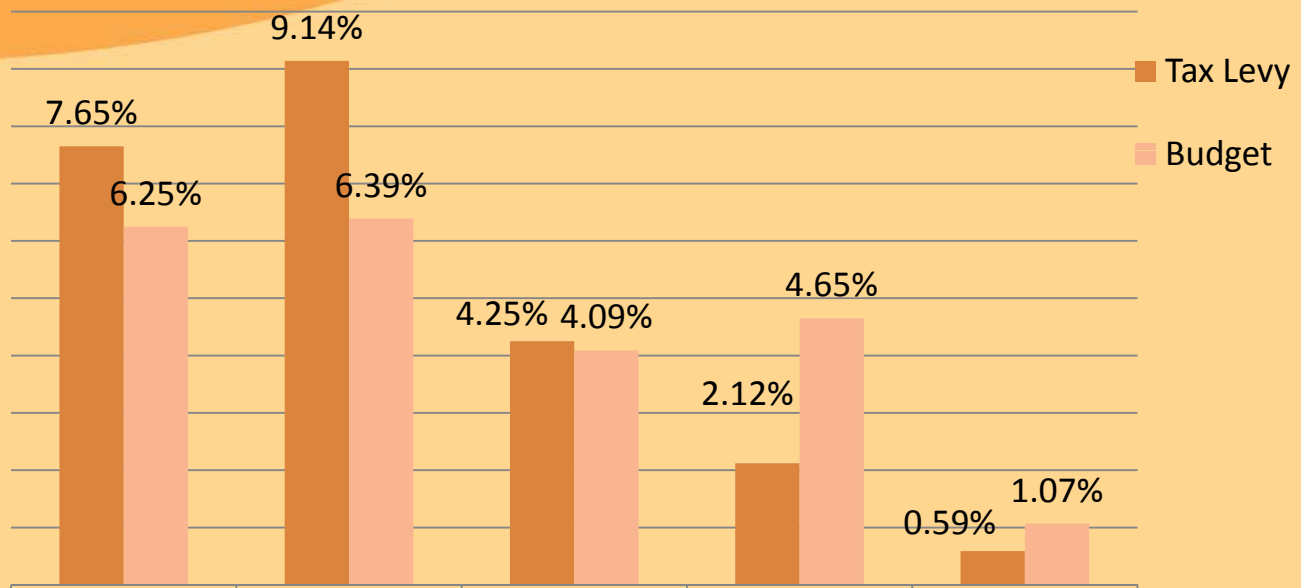
Tax levy increase: 0.59%



Tax Levy Increases over the last 5 years



Comparison of budget and tax levy increases



	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Tax Levy	7.65%	9.14%	4.25%	2.12%	0.59%
Budget	6.25%	6.39%	4.09%	4.65%	1.07%



Expenditures 2009-10



	2008-09 Budget	2009-10 Proposed Budget	\$ Increase/Decrease
Instruction	\$23,385,318	\$23,461,782	\$76,464
Employee Benefits	\$8,508,931	\$8,981,150	\$472,219
Operations & Maintenance	\$2,959,397	\$2,611,937	\$(347,460)
Transportation	\$2,109,522	\$2,252,645	\$143,123
District Support	\$1,944,014	\$1,993,776	\$49,762
Debt Service	\$3,028,432	\$3,082,403	\$53,971
Total	\$41,935,614	\$42,383,693	\$448,079

Staffing Changes in General Fund



Cuts

Human Resources: -1.0 FTE

Social studies academic administrator: - 0.5 FTE

Central Registrar: -1.0 FTE

Custodian: -1.0 FTE

Technology: -1.0 FTE

6th Grade: -1.0 FTE

7th Grade: - 3.0 FTE

5th Grade: - 1.0 FTE

Pinewood Math TA: -1.0 FTE

Special Education: -1.0 FTE

2nd Grade: -1.0 FTE

Bradt TA: -1.0 FTE

Total: 13.5

Additions

High School Foreign Language : +0.2 FTE

High School Science: +0.2 FTE

Mo Tech/AIS: +1.0 FTE

Total: 1.4

**Positions district wide:
12.1 FTE/\$545,000**



Cuts & Reductions



- ❖ Special Education: - \$321,017
- ❖ Operations & Maintenance: - \$347,460
- ❖ Athletics: - \$11,998
- ❖ Equipment at high school: - \$40,155
- ❖ Middle school & high school textbooks: - \$39,089
- ❖ Computer hardware/software: - \$111,757
- ❖ Equipment for transportation: - \$33,000
- ❖ Board of Education expenses: - \$2,000
- ❖ BOCES printing costs: - \$3,850
- ❖ Central data processing: - \$14,154



How is the district spending the federal stimulus money?



Spent in two ways:

Stabilization funds

Used by the state to eliminate the deficit reduction assessment.

Federal grant funds (IDEA, Title I)

Must be used to supplement NOT supplant.



New positions to be funded through IDEA, Title I federal funding



- ✓ High school counselor (0.5 FTE)
- ✓ Middle school AIS English language arts teacher (0.6 FTE)
- ✓ Middle school AIS math teacher (0.6 FTE)
- ✓ Middle school special education teacher (0.5 FTE)
- ✓ Pinewood AIS reading teacher (1 FTE)
- ✓ Pinewood counselor (0.5 FTE)
- ✓ Pinewood AIS math teacher (0.5 FTE)
- ✓ Bradt full-day kindergarten teachers (5 FTE)

Total: \$421,500

**Total IDEA/Title I allocations
for Mohonasen in stimulus plan: \$470,501**



Revenues 2009-10



A school budget is funded in three ways:

- State Aid: 45.5%
(flat for 2009-10)
- Property Taxes: 50.6%
- Other: Interest income; BOCES classroom rental; use of facilities; admissions at sporting events, Medicaid, Medicare Part D



Revenues 2009-10



	2008-09 Budget	2009-10 Proposed Budget	\$ Increase/Decrease
State Aid	\$18,924,201	\$19,290,541	\$366,340
Property Tax Levy	\$21,262,319	\$21,387,652	\$124,739
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$50,000
Interest Earnings	\$200,000	\$175,000	\$(25,000)
BOCES Rental/Svcs.	\$305,500	\$305,500	\$0
Interfund Transfer	\$310,000	\$350,000	\$40,000
Other Revenue	\$483,000	\$475,000	\$(8,000)
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$(100,000)
Total	\$41,935,614	\$42,383,693	\$448,079

Impact on taxes



Home assessed at:	\$150,000
2008-09 Tax Rate	\$15.00/\$1,000 = \$2,250
2009-10 Estimated Tax Rate	\$15.08/\$1,000 = \$2,262
	Increase of \$12/year or \$1/month

Home assessed at:	\$100,000
2008-09 Tax Rate	\$15.00/\$1,000 = \$1,500
2009-10 Estimated Tax Rate	\$15.08/\$1,000 = \$1,508
	Increase of \$8/year or \$0.67/month

•The numbers above do NOT reflect any exemptions, including Basic or Enhanced STAR. For information on the STAR exemptions for 2009-10, call your town assessor or visit www.orps.state.ny.us.



Impact on taxes



Factors that impact the final tax rate:

- Assessed values of property within the town
 - An increase in assessments will reduce the tax increase.
 - A decrease in assessments will increase the tax rate.
- Change in equalization rate, set by Office of Real Property Tax Serves (ORPS, www.orps.state.ny.us)
- Appropriated fund balance



Bus Proposition



Five 66-passenger buses

Two 22-passenger wheelchair buses

Two 8-passenger Suburbans

Proposition Limit:

\$650,000

Less Transportation Aid @ 81.5 percent:

\$(529,750)

Estimated budget impact over 5 years:

\$120,250

(approx. 24,050/year)



Debt service payments begin the school year following the bus purchase. In this case, they would begin 2010-2011.

Contingency Budget



The proposed budget of \$42,383,693 is \$1,154,366 less than the 4 percent expenditure cap allowed under contingency.

This means that the board could adopt a budget that is \$1.2 million higher than the proposal and still fall within the state's expenditure cap for a contingency budget.

Under a contingent budget, cuts would NOT have to be made to meet the cap. However, they would have to be made to meet the law with respect to the definition of contingency appropriations. Cuts would be to student supplies, community use of buildings and grounds, certain equipment purchases and certain salary increases.

Current proposed budget	\$42,383,693
Less mandated cuts	- <u>\$78,727</u>
Contingent budget	\$42,304,966



Board of Education Vacancies



- ✓ Three “at large” seats for three-year terms
- ✓ Look for more information on the candidates in the budget brochure, which will be mailed out in May and on the district Web site, www.mohonasen.org.
- ✓ Meet the Candidates Night & Budget Hearing, May 11, 2009 at 6 p.m., High School Farnsworth Technology Center (LGI)



Long-Range Plan



In the fall, Mohonasen is considering a Capital Project Referendum to address long-range future needs. Plans for the project include a new transportation facility, a “high-tech” wing at the high school, a new library at the middle school, expanded athletic fields and more.

These plans will have NO IMPACT
on the 2009-10 budget.



Remember to come out and vote!



Meet the Candidates Night/Budget Hearing
May 11, 6 p.m.
HS Farnsworth Technology Center (LGI)

Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 19, 2009
7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Mohonasen High School Gym

Questions?

Call 356-8210 or visit www.mohonasen.org/budget

Thank you!

